

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 ACDA-05 /074 W

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O 191150Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9872

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1454

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 5030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: MARCH 19, THE 78TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 4849

1. SUMMARY. KC ATTACKS BY FIRE AT NEAK LUONG MARCH 18 HIT AN AMMUNITION STORAGE FACILITY AND SUNK THREE KHMER NAVY CRAFT. HOWEVER, ATTACKS BY FIRE TODAY IN THE AREA HAVE LIGHTENED NOTICE-ABLY. ENEMY ROCKET FIRE AGAINST PHNOM PENH AND POCHENTONG AIR-FIELD WAS MODERATE. THE OPERATION NORTHWEST OF POCHENTONG AGAINST ENEMY ROCKET LAUNCHING AREAS MADE NO PROGRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 18, A KC ATTACK BY FIRE HIT AN AMMUNITION STORAGE FACILITY AT NEAK LUONG. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO HOURS OF EXPLOSIONS BUT WE DO NOT KNOW AS YET THE EXTENT OF THE LOSS. KC SHELLING OF THE NOW EVACUATED KHMER NAVY FLOATING BASE (REFTEL) ALSO RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF THREE NAVY PATROL BOATS AT THE BASE FOR REPAIRS. ANOTHER WAS DAMAGED BUT RE-COVERED. HOWEVER, ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE DURING THE NIGHT AND MORNING OF MARCH 18-19 LESSENDED CONSIDERABLY FROM THE VERY HIGH LEVELS OF THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, WITH

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SIXTEEN PERSONS REPORTED WOUNDED. THERE WERE NO

GROUND ATTACKS.

3. THE OPERATION NORTHEAST OF TUOL LEAP DIRECTED AGAINST ENEMY ROCKET LAUNCHING AREAS MADE NO PROGRESS. THE FORCES NOW COMMITTED CONSIST OF ELEMENTS OF TWO BRIGADES AND TWO ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER SQUADRONS. ALL FORCES AVAILABLE HAVE NOT BEEN COMMITTED SINCE DELAYS IN GETTING THE OPERATION LAUNCHED HAVE RESULTED IN SOME UNITS BEING TEMPORARILY COMMITTED ELSEWHERE.

4. KC ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST POCHENTONG AND PHNOM PENH CONTINUED BUT WERE MODERATE. ABOUT TEN 107MM ROCKETS LANDED ON OR NEAR THE AIRFIELD, LIGHTLY DAMAGING ONE C-123 PLANE. ABOUT SIX ROUNDS LANDED IN THE CITY.

5. ROUTE 4 FROM PHNOM PENH EAST TO KOMPONG SPEU IS CUT. FANK OPENED THE ROAD BRIEFLY TWO DAYS AGO, BUT THE ENEMY HAS INTERDICITED IT AGAIN. THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, BUT STEADY ENEMY PRESDIRE CONTINUES.

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## Message Attributes

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